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NEWS FROM KAMPUCHEA

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Statement by Ieng Sary, Minister of Foreign Affairs

The following is an extract of a statement made by Ieng Sary, the Deputy Prime Minister who is also the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on March 17, 1978 in Phnom Penh.

The people of Democratic Kampuchea are overcoming all obstacles in order to safeguard and depend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and absolute right to decide their own destiny. Our present struggle which revolves around the acts of aggression and annexation perpetrated by the "Socialist Republic of Vietnam" is not in essence any different than the struggle for national liberation against the war of aggression perpetrated by U'S' imperialism, during which our people made great sacrifices not only for their independence but the victory of non-alignment principles. Indeed our present struggle is to allow Democratic Kampuchea to live, develop and move forward as an independent, peaceful and non-aligned country. In the past, the great community of non-aligned countries has actively supported the just cause of the Kampuchean people. It still continues to pay great attention to Vietnamese acts of aggression against Democratic Kampuchea. This attitude has further encouraged our people who have always had a strong conviction on the principles of non-alignment and strengthened their belief in their just cause.

We are fully aware that the non-aligned movement is facing many difficult problems caused by the interference and intervention of imperialists, expansionists and their supporters. It is for this very reason that the truth be known in the current Kampuchea - Vietnam conflict.

Being faithful to the principles of non-alignment, Democratic Kampuchea deeply wishes that the non-aligned community can devote its time and mobilise its forces in the struggle against our common enemies.

The root cause of the present conflict was outlined in a statement made by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea on December 31, 1977. Vietnam several decades ago set forth its strategic objective to establish a "Indochina Federation" which would involve one country, one party and one people. Vietnam wanted to force Kampuchea to join this "federation" since that time, especially since 1975 all kinds of pressures, overt and covert, peaceful and war like have been used to achieve this end. But Vietnam has suffered successive defeats in that:

- its schemes of seduction about "special friendship" and "special solidarity" with Kampuchea;
- its spying, subversive and undermining activities;
- its attempts to stage coup d'etats;

and its military violations and encroachments of Kampuchean border territory have all failed. It was only after these defeats that Vietnam launched its large-scale attacks during the last four months of 1977 and early 1978. This action is tantamount to a non-declared war against Democratic Kampuchea.

Ever vigilant Kampuchean soldiers chasing Vietnamese invaders back over the border.

By January 6, 1978, the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea had wiped out the Vietnamese invading forces. However despite these defeats, Vietnam has not abandoned its policy of forcing Kampuchea to join a Vietnamese dominated "Indochina Federation". This is why the situation remains tense. Vietnam has still continued to carry on military activities and subversion against Kampuchea. The Vietnamese army have continued firing on our territory with machine guns and artillery. It has continued to send in espionage agents to gather intelligence on Kampuchea. While this is happening it is actively preparing its military forces to move to border areas for which we feel can only be for one reason, the continual escalation of Vietnamese aggression against Democratic Kampuchea in 1978. Further to this Vietnam has slandered the government chosen by the people in the international arena. We had expected a greater degree of political maturity by the Vietnamese leaders. It appears to us, that Vietnam is desperately trying to seek international legitimacy for its gross acts of interference and plans for annexation. Should Vietnam have any right to carry out such activities^

Following its heavy defeats on January 6, 1978 on February 4, 1978 the day prior to Vietnam.s demand for "negotiations" it launched an artillery attack in Koh Thom, situated on the lower Tonle Bassac River, South of Phnom Penh. This was followed by four regiments of Vietnamese infantry assisted by tanks, helicopters and fighter aircraft. On February 5, 6, 7 and 8, Vietnam continued to launch its attack in this area and many other places in Suay Rieng Province. Thus while Vietnam makes proposals for negotiations with Kampuchea it still continues to attack us. For what does Vietnam want Kampuchea to negotiate^

Democratic Kampuchea has never rejected the principle of negotiation with Vietnam. This was made clear on December 31, 1977 and in other official documents since 1975.

In June 1975, despite the Vietnamese occupation of Koh Way (Kampuchean Island) and our many internal difficulties, the Secretary, Deputy Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs led a delegation to Hanoi for negotiations on the border problem. In May 1976, Democratic Kampuchea invited a Vietnamese delegation to Phnom Penh to continue these negotiations. At the same time, Democratic Kampuchea desirous to obtain a peaceful solution has striven to maintain regular contacts with Vietnam through Liaison Committees at the central, regional and district levels. But Vietnam has not taken into consideration the good will of Kampuchea and has adopted an attitude contrary to Vietnamese statements made in 1966 and 1967, which had recognised the present borders of Kampuchea and promised to respect the border. It used to open contacts through Liaison Committees to carry out subversive activities, incitement to riot and stage attempted coup d'etats in September 1975, April 1976, September 1976, April 1977 and September 1977.

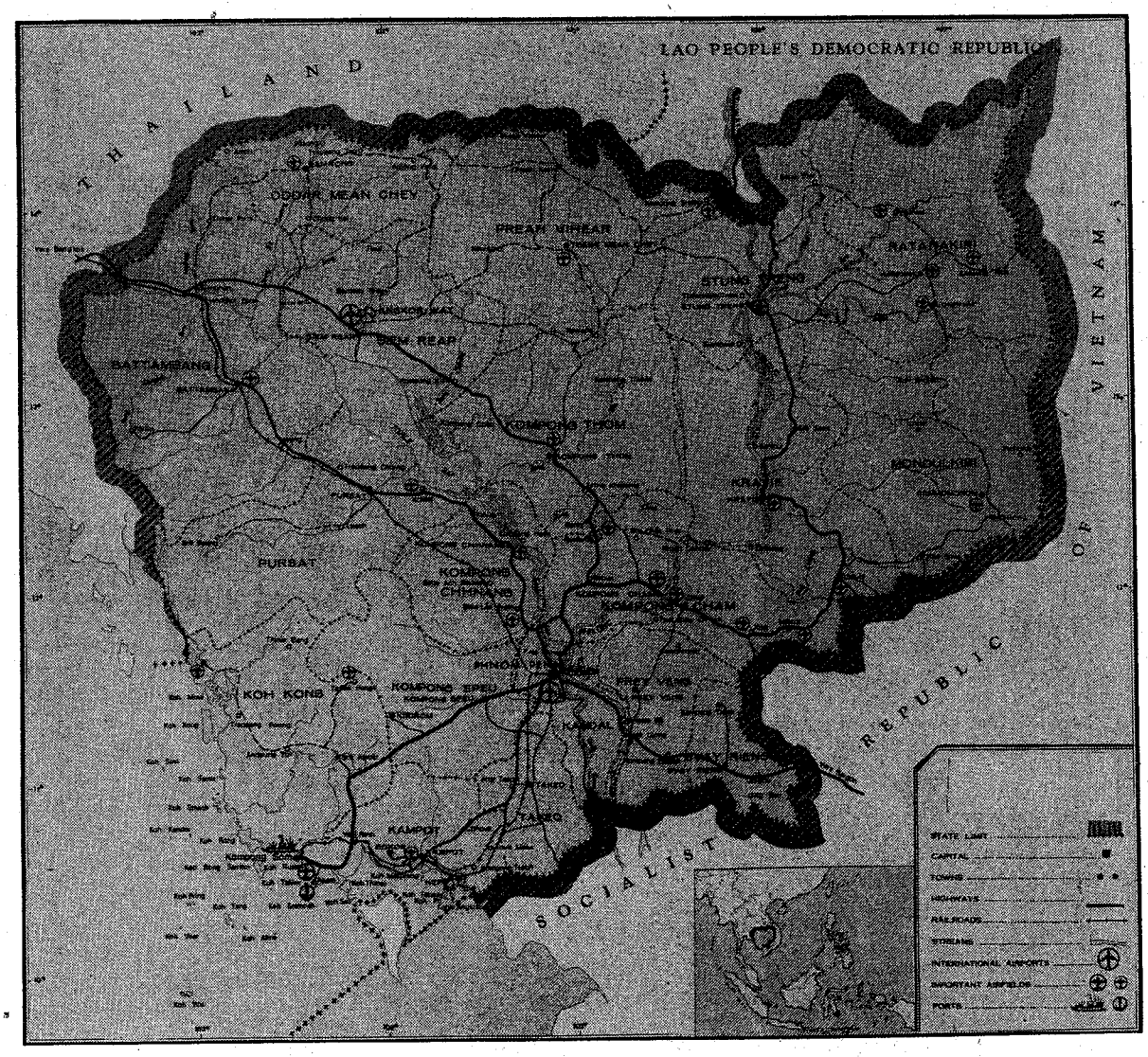
On June 18, 1977 in the midst of such a tense situation, Kampuchea proposed that the two sides:

(1) Avoid armed conflict along the border, both land and maritime;
(2) Resolve not to engage in spying, territorial violation, and subversion and interference in each others internal affairs;
(3) Not to station troops at a distance less than 500 to 1000 metres from the present border, in order to avoid armed conflict; and
(5) To educate soldiers and peoples to be fully aware of the principles of friendship and solidarity, mutual respect, equality and of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

These Kampuchean proposals were designed to create an atmosphere of detente and mutual confidence favourable for a fruitful further meeting. Once again Vietnam was non-responsive. On the contrary at the beginning of July, 1977, Vietnam escalated its acts of aggression against Kampuchea. Kampuchea never publicised these acts of aggression for it wanted to solve the existing problems through peaceful means and with sincerity. But as for the Vietnamese side, it has carried out diplomatic actions designed to slander and isolate Kampuchea in the international arene.

If the current border conflict was just an ordinary border conflict, why at the end of 1977 was the Vietnamese army up to 30 kilometres inside Kampuchea^ Why did the Vietnamese army destroy the organs of Kampuchean Government and establish their own puppet administrations wherever they could^ Why has Vietnam engaged in many activities aimed at overthrowing the present government of Democratic Kampuchea^ The answer to these three questions is that Vietnam wants its "Indonchina Federation". Vietnams actions are nothing new as far as Kampuchea is concerned. Imperialists, colonialists and Vietnamese feudalists and reactionaries have annexed many "tens of thousands" of square kilometres of territory, a good example being Kampuchea Krom. Our people know this but are prepared to let "bygones be bygones".

Map of Democratic Kampuchea



All they want to do is live in peace, honour and dignity being sovereign of that territory that has been clearly defined in historic documents, texts and maps. During the negotiations between Kampuchea and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam in August-September 1966 and in solemn statements issued by the NLF on May 31, 1967 and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam issued on June 8, 1967, Vietnam declared that it recognised Kampuchea's border and promised to continue respecting this agreement. Once again why, at present does Vietnam refuse to carry out its promises?

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea in its statement of December 31, 1977 clearly stated that the present conflict could only end if Vietnam ends its acts of aggression, and annexation of Kampuchean territory, subversion and if Vietnam respects with concrete acts the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea and the right of the Kampuchean people to decide by themselves their own destiny. From this a genuine friendship would be surely established, successively strengthened and developed. This is the wish of Democratic Kampuchea a small country, sparsely populated and with no troops in foreign countries. Kampuchea needs time and peace for national construction to improve the people's living standards. There is no reason to create trouble, Kampuchea needs peace not war.

However, let there be no mistake, while Vietnam refuses to adopt a policy of detente, Kampuchea is ever vigilant. In defending its inalienable and vital interests, Democratic Kampuchea is also fully aware of its responsibility and duties towards the non-aligned movement. It is convinced that its present struggle is a modest contribution to strengthening the independence, sovereignty and peace of Southeast Asia and the world against the ambitions of the imperialists, expansionists and their followers. This struggle also plays a role in enhancing the principles of non-alignment.

Statement form IENG SARY, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs.

NEWS FROM KAMPUCHEA

At 0900 hours on April 17, 1975 the Revolutionary Army of Democratic Kampuchea entered Phnom Penh in what was to be the last battle for national liberation. The population of Phnom Penh which had been living under the 'yoke' of the most facist, dictatorial, savage and treacherous clique of Lon Nol - Siri Matak - Sosthene who were actively aided and abetted by the most reactionary superpower, the United States, enthusiastically welcomed the liberators.

Since 1975 the Kampuchean worker - peasant - soldier alliance has actively participated in constructing a new Kampuchea. Now that the Kampuchean people are fully in charge of 'history', Kampuchea has moved ahead in leaps and bounds. This has been a result of the just and clearsighted leadership of the Communist Party of Democratic Kampuchea.

In agriculture thanks to improved and expanded irrigation works Kampuchea since 1976 has been able to export rice. Kampuchea has been able to do this by sheer hard work and determination on behalf of the people coupled with the increasing application of science and technology. Kampuchea considers that the development of the productive forces of industry are heavily dependent on continued agricultural surpluses. Under no circumstances will Kampuchea participate in organisations, such as the Asian Development Bank or ASEAN, which it rightly sees as mechanisms designed to foster dependence.

Kampuchea's industrial development is designed to make Kampuchea completely self-sufficient where possible. Prior to liberation, what little heavy industry that existed in Kampuchea was wholly dependent upon foreigners. As such, Kampuchea did not have an indigenous bourgeois class. Now Kampuchea produces agricultural equipment, rubber products, textiles and ceramic industrial goods to cite just a few examples.

The economic development of Kampuchea also reflects the political and social developments that have taken place. Kampuchea has clearly recognised that socialism is more than just 'economism'. In education our students are being taught the importance of relating theory to practice whereas previously the two were mutually exclusive. Of course Kampuchea has had to tackle the enormous problem of illiteracy but this has been undertaken with enthusiasm. In the field of medicine, Kampuchea emphasises the importance of modern scientific techniques alongside useful traditional methods. Unlike colonial medical practice, medicine is brought to the people rather than people having to seek medicine. Kampuchea considers 'preventive' medicine based on social education more important than 'curative' medicine.

Kampuchea's foreign policy stresses independence, peace, neutrality and non-alignement. Under no circumstances will Kampuchea allow foreign powers to interfere in its internal affairs. At the same time Kampuchea will never interfere in the internal affairs of other countires. However at present there are both agressors to the east and west of our frontiers. Kampuchea's eastern aggressor Vietnam has proved to be the worse, but the Revolutionary Army with the support of all Kampuchean people is determined that Democratic Kampuchea will not be undermined.

Finally, the revolutionary struggle of the Kampuchean people will serve as an example to the other exploited peoples of Asia, Latin America and Africa and Kampuchea longs to welcome the liberated peoples of the world in their movement of solidarity against all forms of domination.

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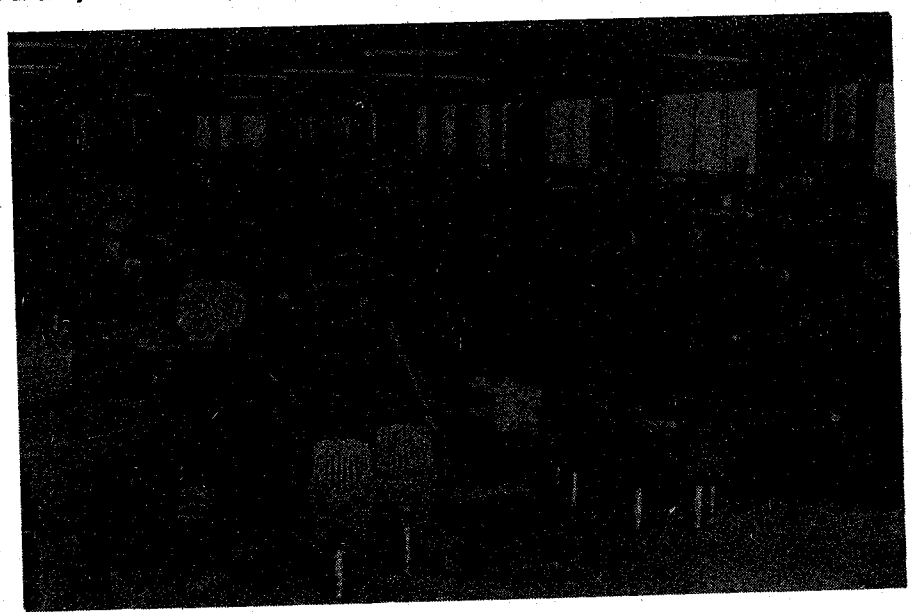


New generation of workers in a machine-tools workshop.

Ted Hill on Modern Kampuchea

In December 1977 I spent a few days in Kampuchea. My main concern was to exchange views with the Communist Party of Kampuchea, at the invitation of which I made my visit. In Phnom Penh I had talks with a Communist Party delegation led by Pol Pot, secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea.

I write this as a Communist and in the understanding that many people in addition to the Communists support the cause of friendship with Democratic Kampuchea. Within Democratic Kampuchea, wide sections of people in addition to the Communists, support the independence of Democratic Kampuchea and its building of socialism. While my own interest is immediately Communist that leads me to work with all who support the cause of independence and socialism.

Pol Pot elaborated the development of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. He showed how the Kampuchean Communists came to realise that the old parliament and parliamentary way offered no solution to the problem of Kampuchea's independence. Even though Communists and other patriots commanded majority support among the people, they could get no seats in parliament. Moreover, every method of repression, intimidation, assassination and informing was used against them. They were compelled to draw the lesson that only armed struggle by all sections of the Kampuchean people devoted to independence could save the country. Hence the Communist Party had arisen in 1960, grown in the fire of armed struggle and had built up a great united front of workers, peasants, important sections of the capitalist class, students and intellectuals, prominent figures and others. This armed struggle culminated in the victory of independence on April 17, 1975.

Within the struggle the building of socialism had begun in 1973. The agricultural co-operatives arose and developed. Now there is all round development of socialism.

The independence of Kampuchea and its socialist integrity are still under attack both at the instigation of US imperialism and of Soviet social imperialism, particularly the latter. Through the agency of certain leaders in Vietnam, armed aggression is being carrried out. The patriotic people of Democratic Kampuchea are resisting heroically. They are having great victories and are certain to win even greater victories. Nothing can stop the ultimate victory of a just cause.

The people of Kampuchea worked out their own line of struggle – armed struggle, from the countryside in which the leadership was that of the working class and the main force, the peasants, who liberated area after area. They used all weapons, no matter how primitive, that came to hand. The people of Kampuchea are building socialism in their own way with the emphasis on agriculture and the co-operatives while attending to industry. All the people are fed. Kampuchea is exporting rice. With the proceeds, it buys the goods that its industry does not yet produce.

Within the united front, many patriots co-operated up to and including Prince Sihanouk, who still lives in Phnom Penh.

All sorts of calumny are heaped upon Democratic Kampuchea. Lies and slanders come from the most reactionary forces in the world headed by the Soviet social-imperialists. But the lies and slanders have got so fantastic as to discredit their authors, while the vast majority of countries and peoples of the world support the cause of Democratic Kampuchea against the aggression of Vietnam.

Democratic Kampuchea is a splendid example of what Communists regard as the correct line of a wide united front for independence, an army waging armed struggle and a Communist Party adhering to a correct line and practising armed struggle against the reactionaries, open and secret work, legal and illegal work. The struggle and victory of the people of Kampuchea are an inspiring ple to all Communists.

Friendship with Democratic Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people is particularly important for Australia. In Asia and the Pacific, there is a desperate struggle for domination of the area between the US imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists. All the peoples are threatened by these superpowers. As I pointed out, Democratic Kampuchea is at this moment actually under armed attack under the sinister influence of Soviet social-imperialism. This same Soviet social-imperialism seeks to get Australia within its net. The causes of our two people are inseparable. All the peoples of Asia and the Pacific must unite. Certainly Democratic Kampuchea is part of the world wide united front against the superpowers.

In our Party relations, my visit cemented the bonds of friendship that already existed. This is an important factor in the whole cause of the unity of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific against the superpowers; for independence of the countries. That friendship is growing.

Communists take the view that the greatest virtue of patriotism, lies in struggling to make the common people masters and owners of their own country. The people of Kampuchea have achieved that under the leadership of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. We in Australia devote ourselves to a similar cause. Who was the patriot of Kampuchea – Lon Nol the US puppet and traitor or Pol Pot, secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, which led those wide sections of Kampuchean people to ownership of their own country? It is only necessary to pose the question to answer it. The immensity of that patriotism and devotion to the cause of independence can be seen in the scars left by the US imperialists in Kampuchea including the scars of napalm bombing still visible in the environs of the famous Angkor Wat. The trees, with their tops cut off, great craters left by the US bombing, etc.

I commend to all patriotic Kampucheans and to all patriotic Australians the cause of friendship between our two peoples.

E.F. Hill,
Chairman of the Communist Party of Australia
(Marxist-Leninist)

Confession of Khemarin called Sam Oeun

My name is Khemarin, called Sam Oeun. I am 37 years old. I was born in the village of Roleaing, commune of Phnom Pi, district of Svay Tong, Moat Chrouk Province (An Giang, South Vietnam, N. of T.). My father's name is Oum Krack. My mother's name is Iet Sum.

In 1954, I becamse a monk in the pagoda of Kong Kas, th Chief of which was named Mean.

In 1959, I joined the CIA through Mean. My CIA's membership was then agreed by Second Lieutenant Chhom, an English interpreter at the garrison of Kraing.

In 1960, I took off the frock and went back home. I still continued to have relations with the CIA's network.

In 1963, I joined the "special forces" called "kanseng sar" (white foulards) under the command of Captain Ouch.

In 1965, I joined the "Khmer serie" army at Chileaing.

In 1968, I joined the Thieu-Ky army.

In 1975, after the war ended in Vietnam, I went back home.

In 1976 I joined the army of the "movement of the struggle for liberation and great national union" in Phnom Phtol hill in order to fight against the Vietnamese. The Chiefs of this movement were Achar Khlang, acting as Adviser, Vong Mony, Deputy Adviser, and Uk Pen Dara, Chief of the army.

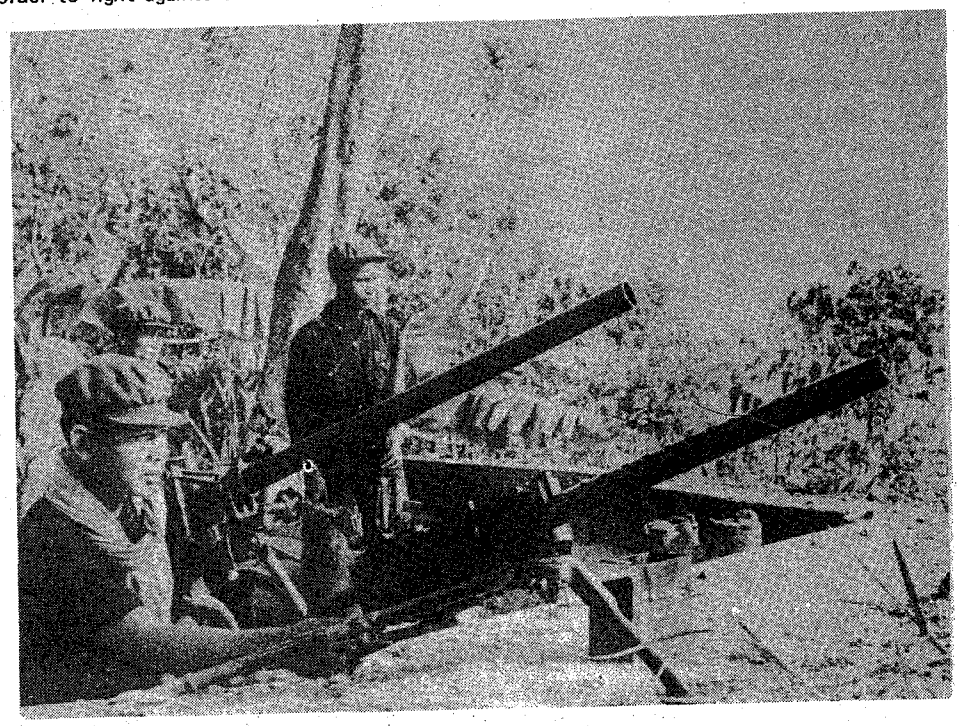
In May 1976, I was appointed Deputy Commander of the liberation army in the region No. 4C.

In June 1976, Achar Khlang sent me to go down from the mountains and lead the movement in 4 villages in the commune of Phonm Pi, district of Svay Ton (Triton, N. of T.).

In August 1977, Uk Pen Dara appointed me Deputy Commander of the army of the movemnet.

In October 1977, the Vietnamese surrounded us in Phnom Phtol.

In November 1977, surrounded by the Vietnamese army and having no rice to eat, we went down the hill of Phnom Phtol and surrendered to the Vietnamese authorities. Muoi Ly, Governor of Moat Chrouk province (An Giang, N. of T.) and Nguyen Giang Lang, Commander of the provincical army o Moat Chrouk inculcated me one day by recalling the biography of the "powerful" Ho Chi Minh and recalling since year 1930 when the Vietnamese Party lead Kampuchea and Laos to fight against the French and japanese enemies. After meeting, Muoi Ly entrusted four of us with a task to keep a close watch on



Determined to resolutely safeguard the gains of the revolution and defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland.

the uprising movements; movement for liberation, Hoa Hao and Cao Dai.

In Decmber 1977, Muio Ly and Nguyen Giang Lang called me, Achar Khlang, Vong Mony and Uk Pen Dar for a meeting at the district centre of Svay Tong. They told us that we were going to attack Kampuchea. Nguyen Ging Lang added that he met with us this time in order to entrust us with a task to go and work in the territoryof Kampuchea. The task was to gather information on:

1. the places where there were steel or bamboo traps and mines along the border;
2. the positions of the Kampuchean army and their distances from the border;
3. the positions of their heavy artillery in the territory, the seacoast and islands of Kampuchea;
4. the distance from the border where the people of Kampuchea live and especially the places along the border from Takeo up to Kampot, through which ways the Vietnamese tanks could penetrate.

Afterwards, Muoi Ly informed us about the Vietnamese plan to attack and invade the provinces of Takeo and Kampot in Feburary 1978:

1. to attack on the directon of Takeo city through Boeng Rumleck;
2. to attack Tani through the passage of Toan Han, and to dispatch one part of these forces to attack Tuk Meas;
3. To go to Kanthor through Boeng Sala and to dispath one part of these forces to attack Kampong Trach.

Besides, the navy's division in Koh Tral (Phu Quoc, N. of T.) had to launch attakcs against the city of Kep and Veal Sbauv.

The Vietnamese forces ready to invade Kampuchea included 3 divisions under the command of Soviets. There were divisions no 9, 14 and 7. As for the armament, there were many Soviet and US tanks, cannons 155mm, 105mm, 80mm, 82mm, B-40, B-41, M-79, AK, CKC, R-15.

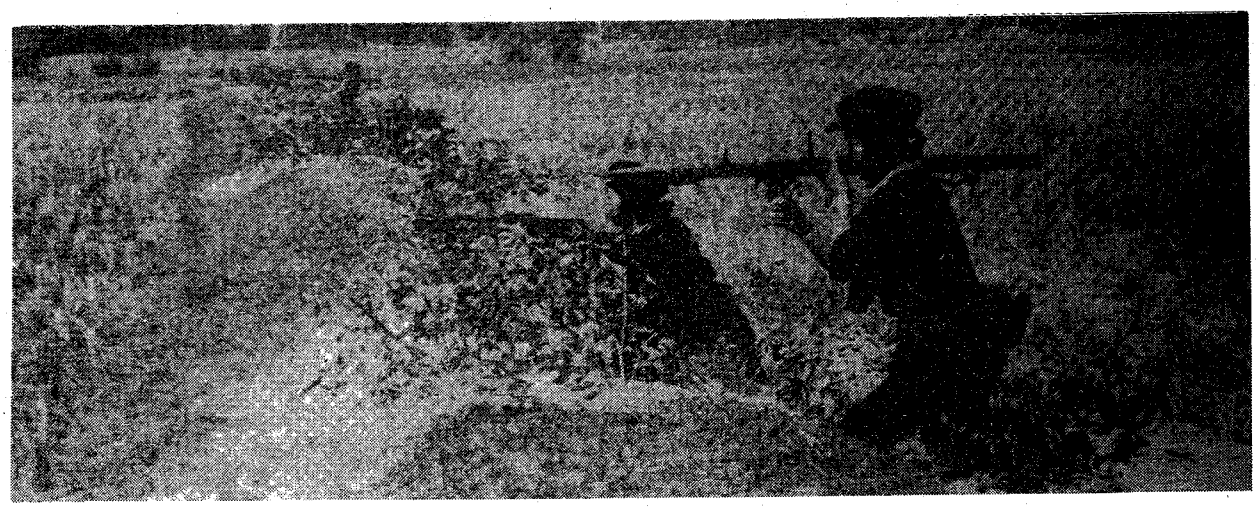
Later on, the Vietnamese ordered me and my group to gathering clear intelligence in Kampuchea within 10 days then, we should return back to Vietnam. If we succeeded in fulfilling this task, we would be promoted to Second Lieutenant, or Lieutenant or Captain. In the case of capture by the Kampuchean army we had to sham deafness, dumbness and craziness or to find some way to commit suicide in order to keep the Vietnamese plan secret.

Afterwards, Nguyen Giang Lang and Muoi Ly introduced me some Vietnamese agents: Chau Lin, Chau San, Chau Rin, Chau Sang, Chau Som, Chau Moeun. After, they told me to contact the former spying network in 1060:

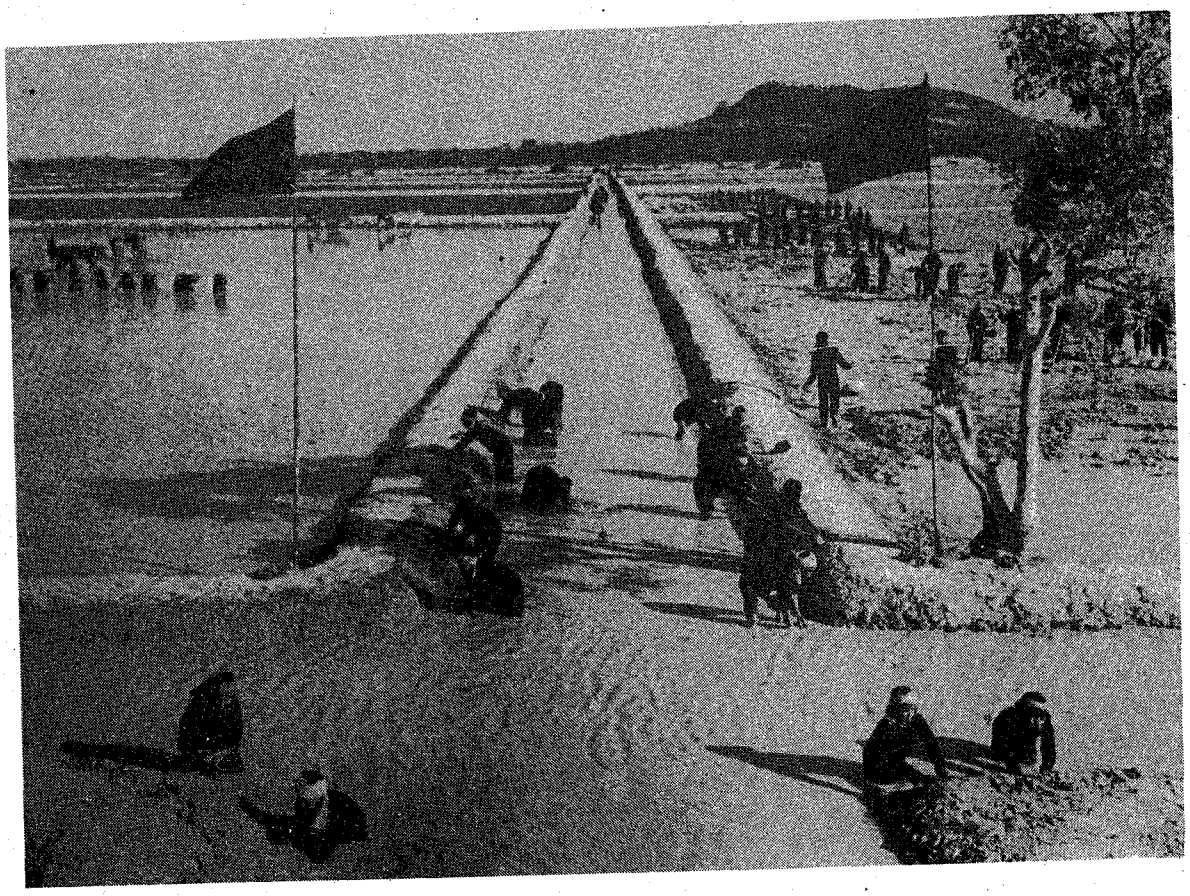
1 Mout, merchant of cattle in the village of Som, West of Phnom Den, Takeo province. There is no news about him.
2. Sanh, merchant of rice in the village of Ta Au, West of Phnom Den. There is no news about him.
3. Kean, fisherman. In 1970, he was Chief of village in the region of Toan Han, commune of Prek Krooeus, district of Kampong Trach, Kampot province.
4. Sem, maker of alcohol in the village of Toan Han, commune of Prek Kroeus, district of Kampong Trach, Kampot province. There is no news about him.
5. Ven, merchant of rice at the border, in the village of Prey Chak, commune of Russey Srok, district of Kampong Trah.
6. Sieng, merchant of rice in the village of Thkov, commune of Russey Srok, district of Kampong Trach.
7.Kean, merchant in the village of Prey Chak, commune of Russey Srok, district of Kampong Trach, Kampot province.
8. Mon, worker at the salt pans in the commune of Russey Srok, district of Kampong Trach. He was Chief of th village of Phnom Paun, commune of Russey Srok. There is no news about him.
9. Khvekm in the village of Russey Srok, district of Kampong Trach, Kampot province.

In the morning of December 2, 1977, Vong Mony, had conveyed to us a plan from Achar Klang, instructing us to carry out so that no one knew that the Vietnamese sent us to gathering intelligence in the Kampuchean territory. If the Kampuchean authorities asked us questions, we would have to answer that we had come to take refuge in the Kampuchean territory for we had been badly ill-treated by the Vietnamese.

In the evening of December 3, we reached the border and entered Kampuchean territory in the West of Phnom Den, Takeo province. But we could not enter deeply for there were so many traps. We had to pull back and to take a rest on the border. At about five o'clock in the morning, the Kampuchean army arrived. They took us to stay one day in the West of Phnom Den and then to the pagoda of Som. Five days later, the authorities of Kampuchea sent me, Vong Mony, Uk Pen Dara and Achar Khlang to Phnom Penh on December 9, 1977 ■



Great Changes in Kampuchea



After liberation, the heroic Kampuchean people raised the slogan of "becoming the master of water" and launched a campaign of building water conservancy projects. Big reservoirs with a capacity of 100-200 million cubic metres were built in every region, medium reservoirs with a capacity of 50-60 cubic metres were built in every district. Canals and ditches totalling several hundred kilometres were dug and many dams built. These proejcts can irrigate 400,000 hectares of paddy fields.

When we arrived at the "January 17" reservoir in the northwest region, we saw many co-op members building a dam with stones. A 6-kilometre dike connects the Ta Ngen mountain and the Kampinboy mountain. From February 2 to May 15, 1977, 20,000 people worked in the construction site day and night and two million cubic metres of earth were removed. The reservoir now holds 120 million cubic metres of water and the acreage under irrigation reached 7.723 hectares. With the completion of the entire project in 1980, the holding capacity will be 199 million cubic metres. This is a great victory for the spirit of self-reliance. Comrade Nhim Ros, secretary of the northwest regional committee of the party, said "The labour force was supplied mainly by the local co-ops, and the stones, sand and other materials were also provided by themselves. The state supplied the necessary transport." He added "Paddy could not be grown here before. Now that there is water, the acreage sown to paddy has been greatly expanded.

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It is still fresh in the memory of all that the war of aggression launched by US imperialism has brought havoc on Kampuchean agriculture: over 80 per cent of the villages near the battlefields and about half of those in distant places were ruined; many towns were reduced to rubble; large numbers of cattle were killed; and there was a serious shortage in manpower ..... immediately after the liberation of the whole country, the imperialists asserted that the Kampuchean people's regime could not support the 7 million people.

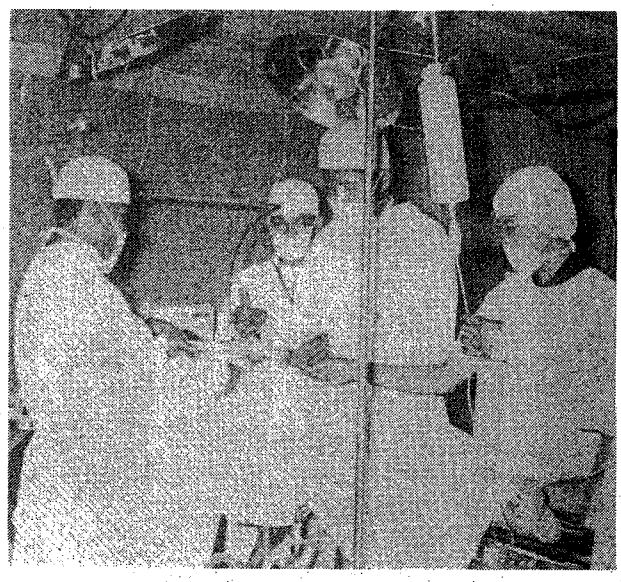
What is the situation in Kampuchea today? We had an opportunity to visit Kampuchea recently and saw by our own eyes a thriving scene throughout the country. Democratic Kampuchea, born amidst war flames, is advancing and her people are making new exploits by adhering to the correct line of taking agriculture as the foundation, taking the development of rice production as the main point and building more water conservancy projects, a line formulated by the central committee of the Kampuchean Communist Party.

CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS EVERYWHERE

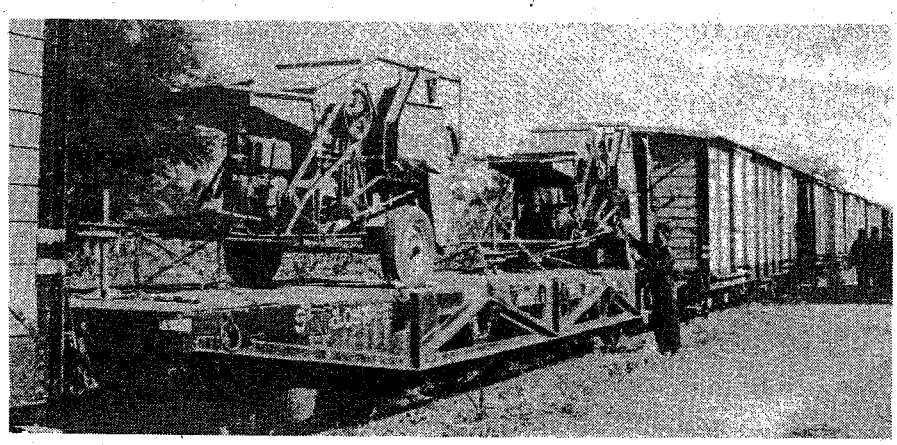
With a tropical climate and ample rainfall, Kampuchea, situated east of the gulf of Siam, has many rivers and lakes, and abounds with water resources. In the past, however inundation occurred when there was rain and the crops failed in times of drought.

Abundant crop of vegetables in a cooperative

Traditional medicine produced by the Cooperatives.



Surgical operaton in a district hospital.

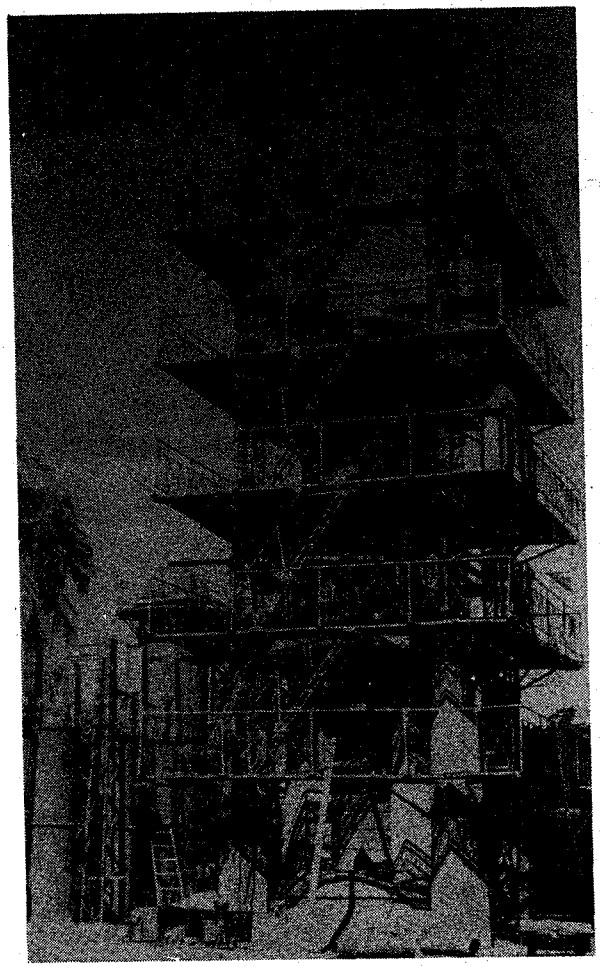


Transporting agricutural equipment to the cooperatives by railways.

In the central region, we saw the Chinit river blocked by the "January 1 dam" and the water flows into canals and paddy fields in accordance with the people's will. The "Chief Engineer" of the project is comrade Pok, secretary of the central regional committee of the party, He told us that all the timber needed was provided by themselves. There are plenty of trees and bamboo in the upper reaches of the Chinit river. "We felled trees and bamboos there and brought them down the river." Pointing to the north, he said: "We have dug a 7 kilometre canal from here to Sntuk district as well as trunk and branch ditches totalling over 20 kilometres in length. The canal runs farther to join the Taing Krasaing river." Then turning towards the south, he said: "We have also constructed a five kilometre long canal towards Baray district, and will bring over 10,000 hectares of land under irrigation this year." The Baray-Tain Kouk area is well known as the highway 6 battlefield where more than 15,000 enemy troops who launched "operation chenta 2" were wiped out in the wary. Today, on this glorious land, the industrious and talented people are working hard to build a more brilliant future.

VIGOROUS SCENE IN RUBBER PLANTAITONS AND COTTON FIELDS

One day, we visited the Chup rubber plantation which is one of the biggest in southeast asia and very famous in the world. It occupies 18,000 hectres of land, 14,000 hectares of which are covered by rubber trees, including 5,000 hectares planted to rubber saplings.



New foundry under construction.

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In the east region, there are a number of big rubber plantations such as Memot, Ta Pav, Binh Cheang and Krek beside the Chup rubber plantations. Chariman of the committee of rubber plantations comrade Phyong told us "Early in the period of revolutionary war, the party central committee already instructed us to well protect rubber plantations so that they could be handed over to the people in good condition." Now, these rubber plantations have taken on an entirely new look, with sturdily growing saplings and a new generation of maturing rubber workers, most of the 5,000 rubber workers are green hands. As a result of their hard study and assiduous practice, they soon grasped the technique in rubber tree planting and tapping, A worker can now tap 500 to 600 trees a day. With each tree yeilding four kilograms of dried rubber a year, per-hectare yield now reaches 4.5 tons. The rapid rehabilitation and expansion of rubber plantatons have contributed to the building of national industry and defence.

In pre-liberation days, cotton was scarcely planted in the country. After liberation, cotton production developed rapidly as a result of encouragement by the party and government. Some 2,000 hectares were sown to cotton in 1976, 5,000 hectares in 1977 and more this year. We saw at the foot of Mount Veaychae west of Battambang city a vast cotton field, altogether 1,200 hectares or more. We were told that per hectare yield of unginned cotton is expected to reach 1.5 tons. Mount Veaychae is a sacred place of revolution where the first shot in the people's armed struggle led by the Communist Party of Kampuchea was fired. It is now renamed Mount Hero.

During a visit to a cotton field at Chamkar Loeu, central region, party secretary and Prime Minister Pol Pot told us, "the cotton seeds introduced from China grow very well on Kampuchean soil, abundant in boll and long in fibre."

GREAT CHANGES IN RURAL AREAS

Born in 1973 during the national liberation war and tempered in various movements, the Kampuchean agricultural cooperatives have been consolidated and developed.

In Tram Kak district, southwest region, one of the three outstanding areas commended by the central committee of the Kampuchean Communist Party, we visited the Leaybor cooperative. Fine houses under shades neatly dotted the tropic land. In war time, the villagers deserted their home, leaving behind waste fields and collapsed buildings. After liberation in 1974, the deserters returned home to rebuild their houses and reclaim their paddy fields. They provided the state with one hundred tons of rice in 1977 and planned to double their contribution this year. Each member of the cooperative got 312 kilograms of rice very year and their livelihood betters with each passing day. 63 houses were build last year and 500 more are to be built this year. The Cooperative also runs a hospital and school.

The coop members are busy threshing rice as we arrived at the Chrey Beutmear cooperative in Tbaung Khmum district, east region. On the threshing gound, we saw grain cleaning machines made of enemy airplane propellors and also other turned out from the Phnom Penh machinery plant. While mainly engaging in agricultural production, the cooperative members have set up medicine producing, weaving and blacksmith workshops and sewing and knitting groups to ensure all round development.

The imperialist prophecies about Kampuchea have been shattered. Democratic Kampuchea now rises like a phoenix from the ashes. The heroic people of Kampuchea, having healed the war wounds in less than three years, are building a find new society with confidence.

Statement by Spokesman of Kampuchean Foreign Ministry

MARITIME BORDER

The Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea issued a statement yesterdy, reaffirming the stand of the government of Democratic Kampuchea concerning the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, radio democratic Kampuchea broadcast.

It said: "Democratic Kampuchea exercises her full and entire sovereignty over her territorial sea, the breadth of which is established on 12 nautical miles, measured from the baselines." "Democratic Kampuchea also exercises this sovereignty over the airspace over the territorial sea as well as over the bed and subsoil of her territorial sea."

It said: "Democratic Kampuchea entirely exercises her rights of control over the contiguous zone which extends on 12 nautical miles from the external limit of her territorial sea."

It said: "Democratic Kampuchea has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing all the natural resources of the superjacent waters, the bed and subsoil of her exclusive economic zone situated beyond her territorial sea and extending up to 200 nautical miles from the baselines.

It said: "Democratic Kampuchea exercises her sovereign rights over her continental hself. Democratic Kampuchea exercises over her continental shelf these sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing all the natural resources of the sea bed and subsoil.

It said: "All the islands of Democratic Kampuchea have their territorial seas, their contiguous zones, their exclusive economic zones and their continental shelves."

It said: "The government of Democratic Kampuchea takes appropriate measures in order to entirely safeguard the sovereignty, the rights and the interests of democratic Kampuchea over her territorial sea, her contiguous zone, her exclusive economic zone and her continental shelf.

"The government of Democratic Kampuchea will settle with the parties concerned the above mentioned maritime zones in accordance with the concrete situation." the statement said ■

Hu Youn On The Vietnamese Communists

On 27th May 1972, at a meeting in Kampuchea's liberated zone, Hu Youn addressed the problem of Kampuchea's relations with the Vietnamese communists. Hu Youn at that time was the revoutionary Minister of the Interior, Communal Reforms and Cooperatives. His remarks were recorded by Ith Sarin, who later defected to the puppet Lon Nol regime and published the following account in his book **Regrets of the Khmer Soul** (Sronos Prolung Khmaer), Phnom Penh, 1973.

"First,Mr Hu Youn analysed the international influence upon their revolution. He did this by using the Marxist-Leninist approach to social events, which are considered by them as having a scientific character. He then discussed and analysed the internal situation and the relationship between the Lao, Kampuchean and Vietnamese people, especially the relationship between the Vietcong and North Vietnamese and the Khmer Reds. He told the conference about the strength of their revolution in the domestic and international spheres.

"Mr Hu Youn did admit that in 1970-71 the Vietcong and North Vietnamese ... had robbed the Kampuchean people, killed some of the Khmer Reds,and badly treated the Khmer Red cadres. This happened because at that time the Khmer Reds were very weak; they did not have enough weapons and their army was not strong..

"The Vietcong and the North Vietnamese took a lot of posssessions from the ordinary people of Kampuchea to feed their army in Saang-Koh Thom. Not until 1971 were the Khmer Reds able to get away and escape from the influence of the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese.

"Now we are independent, we are the masters and we rely on our own resources. The Vietcong and the North Vietnamese must respect the Kampuchean people and the Khmer revolutionary organisation who are helping to drive out the American imperialists and their lackeys." This is what Hu Youn said.

I asked Mr Hu Youn whether the organisation cared and had done anything about the foreign armies of the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese in Kampuchea. Mr Hu Youn said the organisation was quite worried about that, but had already made arrangements and was ready to take a stand on it.

Mr Hu Youn spoke well about the revolutionary organisation internationally and added that even communist China and Korea had asked to learn from them."

Ith Sarin concluded his account with:

"Hu Youn's answers and his assumptions did not seem clear to us; we still did not believe what he said."

Perhaps Ith Sarin would agree that in the light of the recent Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and the solid Kampuchean resistance, Hu Youn's statements appear clearer and more credible ■

Interview with Comrade Pol Pot

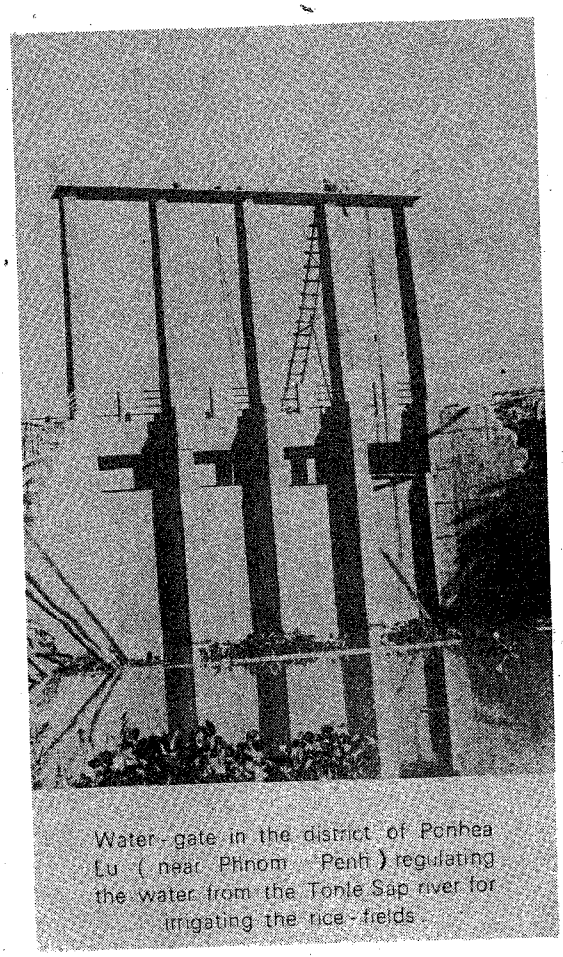
The interview of Comrade Pol Pot, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea, was conducted by a delegation of visiting Yugoslav journalists on March 17, 1978. News from Kampuchea reprints this interview which has been supplied to us by the Department of Press and Information Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Democratic Kampuchea.

"With water we have rice, with rice we have everything"

First question: Respected comrade Pol Pot, you are going, soon, to celebrate the third anniversary of the liberation of your country. Please tell us what are the outstanding achievements in national edification during these past three years.

Answer- It is a pleasure for me to answer your question. During these nearly past three years, we have got a number of satisfactory results in the restoration and edification of our country. But, first of all, I would like to say that we still have a lot of work to do.

The first outstanding result is that we have solved the agricultural problem, especially in rice-growing. To have the problem of rice production solved means to have enough rice to feed our people. In 1976, we planned to get a yield of 3 tons of paddy per hectare. We achieved 80 to 90 per cent of this objective, which allowed us to solve the living conditions of our people and also to export rice. In 1977, we planned a yield of 3 tons of paddy per hectare for one crop and of 6 tons per hectare for two crops a year. We fulfilled this plan at nearly 100 per cent. Therefore, in 1977, we had a paddy production higher than that in 1976. We could then improve the living conditions of our people and export more rice.

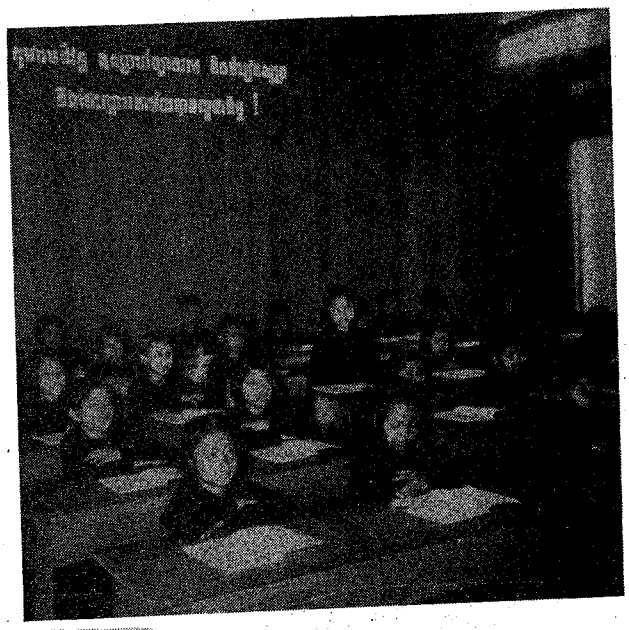


Water-gate in the district of Ponhea Lu (near Phnom Penh) regulating the water from the Tonle Sap river for irrigating the rice-fields.

Our slogan says: "If we have rice, we can have everything", because our people can eat their fill, we have rice to export and we can import the products we need. The results achieved in the agricultural production lay on the bases of the fundamental hydraulic projects that we have already achieved. The hydraulic projects are an important result to ensure in the future, the agricultural and rice production. We have solved the agricultural problem and from these bases, the other sectors, like industry, cottage industry, cultural and social sectors, can also be developed.

Another outstanding result is that we have eliminated malaria which was a scourge for more than 80 per cent of our compatriots. In the past, every year, the number of the people suffered of malaria were very high and they faced many difficulties in their work. Now, we have eliminated malaria at 90 per cent. So, the living conditions of our people have been considerably improving in the domain of health.

Another outstanding result is the basic elimination of the illiteracy which was a blemish in the former society. In that society there were indeed, faculties, high schools, secondary schools and primary schools in the cities. But the majority of the people in the countryside were illiterate. Now, we have fundamentally solved this problem. Our people can read and write. That is the basis which allows our people to progressively increase their cultural level. It is not only a part of the society but the entire people who can learn and study. We rely on these bases to further develop our education and schooling.



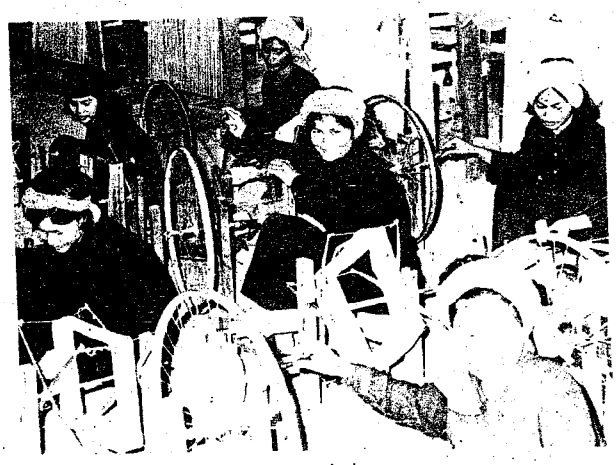
A classroom

As for the other results, they are less important, but I would like to tell you that we have established and developed a sanitary network throughout the country. Each cooperative has its own medical centre and its own centre of making traditional, national and popular medicines. That has then allowed us to greatly improve the health of the people. The present situation is different from that in the old days. Previously, there were doctors only in Phnom Penh and in the big cities. Now, we have doctors all over throughout the country, in all cooperatives and even in the most remote areas of the country. The level of these medical men is still at the elementary stage, but relying on this basis, we will progressively develop their skills.

The cooperative doctors getting ready for regular medical visit

With determination and revolutionary optimism, they are transforming with their own hands the nature to build up a new prosperous and sound society.

Concerning the cottage industry and workshops, there is no spectacular achievement. But, everywhere we have established a network of workshops. Every cooperative has its own cottage industry and workshops. They are the bases to further develop our cottage industry and lead it progressively towards industrialization.



A spinning and weaving workshop

These are a number of outstanding results. They have been achieved thanks to our people's endeavours under the leadership of our Communist Party of Kampuchea. The people work with their own hands, see with their own eyes the results of their works and they have enthusiastically enjoyed them.

Second question: During our short stay in your beautiful country, we have had some evidences that your revolution radically cut off from the past. What model of society are you building up now?

Answer: We have no model in building up our new society. The Special National Congress held at the end of April 1975 clearly specified the determinant role in the revolution, in the national liberation war, played by the worker and peasant people, who form the overwhelming majority of the people. It is this worker and peasant people who have endured the heaviest burden in the revolution. It is then this same worker and peasant people who must enjoy the most the gains of the revolution, at present and in the future. The preamble of our Constitution has also stipulated this point. Our aspiration is to edify a society where happiness, prosperity and equality prevail for everybody, a society where there are neither exploiting class nor exploited class, neither exploiting people nor exploited people, and where everybody participates in production works and national defence. It is on these bases and goal that we are edifying our new society. So, the edification of the new society is undertaken in conformity with the aspirations of the entire people, especially those of the worker and peasant people who are the overwhelming majority of the population. If the people consider that the edification of this society is being on the correct way, then they would carry on this way. On the contrary, if they are not satisfied with, they would then decide differently. That would depend on them to decide. According to our experiences, we totally rely on our people, in the revolution as well as in the national liberation war.

If the people undertake to do something by themselves, everything can be achieved, but if not, we could achieve nothing at their place. That is to say that we have no pre-established model of a new society. We edify our society in conformity with the aspirations of our people as being stipulated in the preamble of the Democratic Kampuchea Constitution.

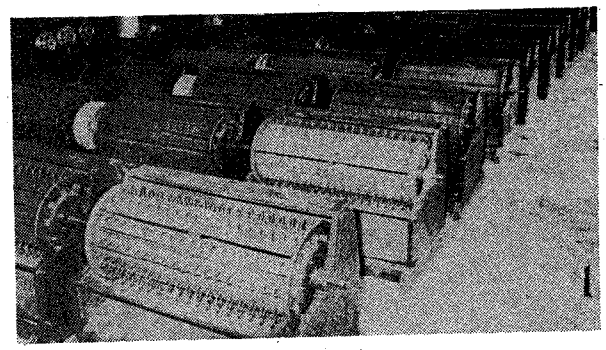
Third question: As we have seen at this stage of your revolution, you have mobilised all your national forces to develop agriculture. Would you have any intention to develop also industry? And how would you establish the technical basis, that is to say how are you going to train the necessary cadres for this orientation, because for the moment, at our knowledge, you have neither university nor technical school?

Answer: We have our objectives and plannings to quickly develop our industry. By relying on agriculture, we endeavour to develop industry. In order to have an independent economy we must develop agriculture, industry, cottage industry and other sectors. It is thus an orientation to which we are paying great attention. But, to edify industry, where could we find the capital? We rely on agriculture. For example, we have established trade relations with Yugoslavia. We export agricultural products and we import industrial products, at one and the same time for the needs of agriculture and industry. In the parallel direction with that, we have a policy to quickly train many national technicians.

If we speak about universities, faculties and colleges like in the old days, there would seem to you of non-existence. But, we have trained our technical cadres from the basis. In the co-operatives, there are many specialised workshops where studies are closely linked to the production works. It is likewise in the factories, in Phnom Penh as well as in the provinces. Before liberation, there were a number of graduates, educated in Phnom Penh, in provinces or abroad. But, as concrete results in the movement of cottage industry and industry, they had served with less efficiency than the national technicians coming from the basis can do at present. According to this experience, we have trained our technicians from the basis and we have progressively developed their technical skills. They participate in the production works and have gained concrete experiences – positive or negative negative – which permit them to move forward.

Before liberation, some of you had been for several times in Kampuchea. At that time, there were very few national technicians, there were many more foreign technicians. Now, we are attaching great importance to the training of national technicians. As concrete results of our training system, let's take an example in the field of hydraulic projects. On the Prek Tnot river, while nothing has been achieved for many years, in 1976-77, we have built 5 dams. Therefore, with concrete practice we can draw concrete experiences, and we asses that if we had to wait for a long time, we could not serve in due time the movement of agricultural production, solve and improve the standard of living of our people.

Let us take more examples. Now, we produce husking-machines and threshing-machines, hydraulic pumps completely by ourselves. We produce them also with imported engines. These machines are manufactured by our technicians. Previously, they could not be produced in the country. All of them must be imported from abroad.



Semi-automatic threshing-machines

In brief, we pay great attention to this problem of industrial development and to the training of our national technicians. We shall develop the level of their knowledge by our own means. We think that we can do so at a certain degree. In combining closely the studies with the concrete practice, they have progressively gained more experiences. Then, they will go to friendly countries for training so that they could improve their scientific and technical knowledges. These are the principles on which we rely, but we will send our trainees only to friendly countries.

Fourth question: We have seen that your cities have no population. Could you explain us what is the objective of this operation? Why have you abolished the role of the money, the salary system, the trade network? Would it be a passing orientation in the social and revolutionary transformation of your society or a model of society that you are really pursuing in building up?

Answer: There are many reasons which led us to evacuate the population from Phnom Penh and other cities.

The first reason was an economic one, that is to ensure food supply for many million inhabitants in the cities. After having taken the problem into much consideration, we came to the conclusion that we could not solve this problem as long as such numerous population remained in the cities. But, if we evacuated this population to the countryside, in the co-operatives, the latter could feed them for they have rice-fields, instruments of production and everything they needed. We had cooperatives which could receive this population from the cities by letting them participate in rice-growing thanks to their oxen, buffaloes and instruments of production. In the countryside, the conditions were favourable for us while in the cities they were not favourabe. Then, in order to solve the food problem, it was necessary to evacuate the population to the countryside. It is only when we can solve the food problem that the people have confidence in the revolution. If in the cities, the population died by starvation, they would not have any confidence in the revolution. Such was the economic reason.

But relating to this economic problem, there was the problem of defence and security of the country. Before liberation, we already knew the plan of defeat of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. According to this plan, after our victory and when we entered into Phnom Penh, they would create difficulties to us in Phnom Penh, in the political, military, economic and other fields in order to destroy our revolution. Therefore, taking this situation into consideration, we evacuated the cities' population to the countryside, in the co-operatives, in order to solve the food problem and, at the same time, to crush beforehand

the U.S. imperialists' plan so that they could not attack us when we entered into Phnom Penh. Thus, the cities were not evacuated through a pre-established plan but they were in conformity with the situation at that time, that were the shortage of foodstuffs, the necessity to solve this problem for the population, and the U.S. imperialists' and their lackeys' plan aiming at destroying our revolution and taking back the power.

Concerning the function of the money, the salary and trade systems, I would like to tell you as follows:

In 1970-71, we already liberated 75 to 80 per cent of our country. At that time, we had the political and military power, but not the economic power. The economy was in the hands of landlords and capitalists. Thus, these latter amassed up the whole production for they had money. In the liberated areas, we fixed the price of paddy at 30 riels a tao (12 kilograms), the price at which the population must sell the paddy to the revolutionary power. But, the landlords and tradesmen bought it at 100 to 200 riels a tao and then they sold it to the Lon Nol clique. As for us, we had nothing. The population faced many difficulties in food supply. It was the same for our army. These difficulties had affected our national liberation war. After having well examined this situation, we decided to establish co-operatives so that they could take in hands the economy, the agricultural production in the countryside, the management, distribution, supply system and the exchanges between co-operatives on one hand and on the other hand between co-operatives and the State. That is why we could take in hands the agricultural production and solve the problems of living conditions of the people. The people were enthusiastic and sent their sons and daughters to join the Army to fight against the enemy. When the co-operatives helped one another and developed their exchanges of products between themselves, the function of the money had been progressively reduced. In 1974, it was reduced by 80 per cent. Before liberation, only the State used money. It used it to buy various products in the areas not yet liberated for the needs of the liberated areas under its control. After these experiences, we asked for the people's opinion who judged that money had no utility for the co-operatives already succeeded in handling the exchange of products between themselves. Therefore, at that time, in the liberated areas, which had extended over more than 90 per cent of the country, with nearly 6 million inhabitants, we had already solved this problem. When the population of the cities were evacuated to the countryside, they were fully taken in charge by the co-operatives. This practice led us to give up the use of money up to now. What will be the situation in the future? That would depend on our people. If the people judge it is necessary to go back and use money, we shall do so. But, if the people consider it it not necessary to use money, they will then decide accordingly. Therefore, in the future this problem would depend on the concrete situation. That is why we have told you that we have no mould or pre-established model. That would depend on the development of the people's revolutionary movement and the progressively acquired experiences.

Concerning the salary system, there were also habits acquired in the past. In the revolutionary movement, especially during the national liberation war, there was no salary both among the cadres and in the army. As for the inhabitants, they also had no salary. Before liberation, in the liberated areas, cadres, army, population, that is nearly 6 million inhabitants, had already used to live without salary. We have noticed that in the old days, the majority of our people had no salary. Only the functionaries had salary. Therefore, with these acquired habits, the population of the cities incorporated themselves in the co-operatives, the military and civil cadres, men and women fighters and workers have continued to live following the regime of supply in practice during the war. We consider that this practice has avoided a heavy burden on the people and allowed us to keep this money mainly for national defence and edification. What will be the situation in the future? That would depend on the concrete situation and the people.

Concerning the trade network, the State and co-operatives co-operate with each other to organise it. The State imports the products from abroad to distribute them throughout the country. So far, we have done so. Those are the practices acquired during the war. What will be the situation in the future? That would depend also on the concrete situation. That is why we have not determined that it is definitive or provisional. We have acted following the concrete situation and we continue to do so. The people are the fundamental factor.

Fifth question: If we have understood well, Democratic Kampuchea faces many problems and difficulties of all kinds with her neighbours. What is your opinion and how could you solve these problems and overcome the present difficulties?

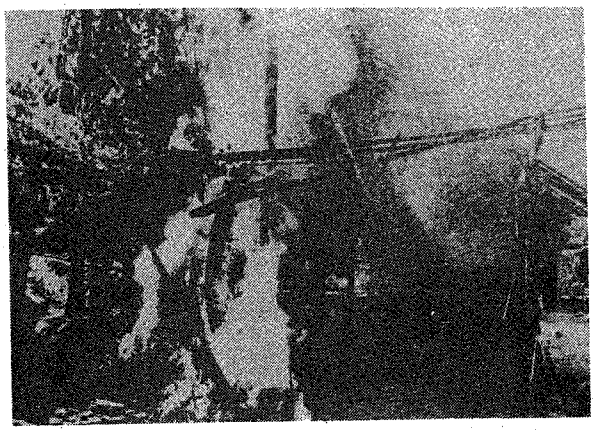
Answer: Like all the newly liberated countries, Democratic Kampuchea has to face difficulties. That is normal. As far as I know, in the history, the difficulties of Kampuchea are not as great as those faced by some newly liberated countries. But, it is a fact that Democratic Kampuchea has difficulties.

The main difficulty is that we have abode by the position of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance and of deciding by ourselves our own destiny. This position runs counter to some countries, that is the expansionists and the imperialists. But we assess that in abiding by this position of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance our difficulties are less serious than those that we would face if the nation and the people of Kampuchea were subjugated or disappeared. Therefore, we prefer to stand by our position of independence, soveriegnty, territorial integrity, of non-alignment, of deciding by ourselves our own destiny in overcoming all obstacles.

How to solve these difficulties? This problem would depend on the factors of our side and those of the opposing side. We have successively sought to solve this problem through meetings and negotiations. Immediately after liberation, in June 1975, myself and other comrades leaders, we had been to Hanoi. We decided to go and show our goodwill in seeking to solve the problems existing since a long time. There were many problems but there was one problem, the problem of border to be discussed. We said that Kampuchea wants only to live in peace and, in order to preserve, develop and strengthen the friendship between our two countries and peoples, she considers as State borders between the two countries the present borders that Vietnam has solemnly recognised in 1966-67 and committee itself to respect them. We have not claimed our former territories. We have not also claimed our former islands. We have not claimed even an inch of territory. The Vietnamese did not deign to reply for they have fostered greater ambitions, that is to take possession of the whole Kampuchea under the form of "Indochina

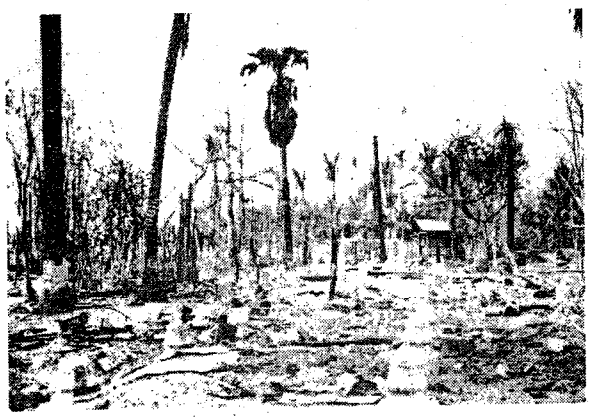
Federation" by sending every year many hundreds of thousands or milions of Vietnamese to come and install themselves in Kampuchea. In 30 years or more, the people of Kampuchea would become a national minority. That is very clear.

In May 1976, we invited the Vietnamese to come and negotiate in Phnom Penh. At first, they did not want to come. When they arrived, they said that they were coming because we had insisted on inviting them to come. During the negotiations, Vietnam has rejected the borders that it has recognised in 1966 and 1967 and that it has committed itself to respect. Vietnam told us that in 1966 it agreed with Kampuchea for at that time it needed to fight against the U.S. imperialists. Therefore, it was a dupery. Furthermore, Vietnam has proposed a new borderline cutting off a great part of our territorial waters. For us, that is expansionism and annexationism. That is no friendship. Because we are small, Vietnam has exerted pressure on us. But we have not accepted it and the negotiations had not then led to any result.



The result of Vietnamese aggression, complete destruction of a village on the border in Svay Rieng Province.

In the parallel direction with these negotiations, the Vietnamese continued to attack us along the border aiming at forcing us to comply with. But we have always refused. After having waged a hard struggle against the imperialists and their lackeys, we cannot accept to be slaves of Vietnam. Neither our people nor our Army can accept it.



Destruction of countryside near Pror Sout, Kampong Cham Province by aerial bombing.

Now, how to solve this problem? We will solve it in accordance to the concrete situation. If Vietnam really respects our independence and soveriegnty, if Vietnam fosters a genuine friendship with us, there would be no difficulties in solving the problem. This problem could be solved at once. But if Vietnam stubbornly wants to take possession of Kampuchea, we must defend our independence, soveriegnty and territorial integrity. But we consider that our difficulties will evolve and could be solved progressively.

A Vietnamese truck that was destroyed while it was delivering ammunition in the village of Kirivong in December 1977.

First of all, we have mobilised our forces to resolutely defend our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. To this end, the entire people are united and have redoubled their endeavours to increase production, improve their standards of living, increase exportations in order to accumulate more and more capital for national defence and edification.

At the same time, we think that the Democratic Kampuchea's friends in the world stand by our side and their number has been further increased. We are of the opinion that there are a lot of countries which cherish independence and some of them have a firm position of independence. Yugoslavis is an example. These independence – and – justice – loving countries progressively and clearly discern those who are right from those who are wrong, those who want peace and friendship from thos who are expansionists and aggressors.

We think the situation evolves in a direction more and more favourable to us. Thus, those who want to aggress and annex Kampuchea will be progressively aware of that they cannot do so. At that time, the problem would be solved. But we must continue to face this present situation.

Sixth question: In the world, they write a lot with or without reason that your country is very closed. Would you have any intention to further open your country to the world? On what principles and in what direction?

Answer: Since liberation, we have progressively received friends. After liberation, we had to solve many problems, we had to organise our country, solve the problem of the living conditions of our people, that is we had to arrange our country, our home. And our friends came one after another. We are convinced that in the future, more friends will come. In 1975, some of them came, In 1976, there were more. In 1977, there were more than in 1976. In 1978, many more friends will come to our country. In the future, they will be more and more. We open our country to our friends. We shall invite and welcome more

and more friends to our home, to our country. And we shall further develop and strengthen our friendship with all friendly peoples and countries.

As for personages and organisations that have shown their friendship and their spirit of justice towards Kampuchea, we have invited them to pay a visit to our country and we shall invite more of them. We are convinced that more and more friends will come and pay a visit to our country. But we must also arrange and embellish our home to receive our guests. You have paid a visit to our country, you have seen with your own eyes the devastations caused by the war. Those who have not seen Phnom Penh during the war would think that it was safe. Phnom Penh was not like it is today. Immediately after liberation, Phnom Penh was very dirty and there were everywhere networks of strongholds and barbed wire. Now, we have removed and cleaned them out.

Seventh question: The relations between Democratic Kampuchea and Socialist Yugoslavia appear in friendship and co-operation. What possibilities would you find to speed up this co-operation and to extend the collaboration between our two friendly countries?

Answer: Democratic Kampuchea and Yugoslavia are friendly countries and this friendship is based on the policy of non-alignment and independence. On this basis, we have ties of solid friendship to develop and strengthen our relations in all fields in the future. The relations in various fields have been developed and strengthened according to the possibilities of our two countries. As far as Kampuchea is concerned, we are striving to build up our country, increase our production and develop our trade exchanges with Yugoslavia. At present, our agricultural production cannot yet meet with all the demands of the friendly Yugoslavia. For example, in case of rubber, we produce some quantity but the quality is not equal. We are striving to improve the quality of our production in order to increase our exchanges with Yugoslavia. Concerning the other fields, we progressively set up co-operation relations in according to the possibilities of our two countries. We think that the prospects of this co-operation are favourable for it does not lay only on the trade and economic relations, but also on an excellent political basis of friendship.

Eighth question: Upon our return, we would like to present to our readers and tele-viewers the results, successes and pre-occupations of Democratic Kampuchea and the leaders of this friendly and non-aligned country. That is why our last question is:

Who are you, comrade Pol Pot?

What is the past record of the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea?

Answer: I am pleased to answer your question. But, first of all, I would like to tell you that my role and that of other comrades leaders represent only a small part of the national movement of Kampuchea, of the revolutionary movement of the Kampuchea's people.

I am from a peasant family, during my childhood, I lived with my parents and helped them in their agricultural works. But after, according to the customs, I lived in a pagoda to learn how to read and write. I spent six years in pagoda and I had been a monk for two years.

You are the first people to know my biography.

When I grew up, I attended the primary school and after this school, I could not immediately attend the secondary school because I did not pass the examination. I went back to the agricultural works to my parents. Only after that, I passed the examination for entering the secondary school. I finished my secondary education and I attended the technical secondary school. The studies lasted more than one year. There were general technical studies, especially in electricity. After successfully passing the examination I received a scholarship to continue my studies abroad, in France.

In the first year, I studied with diligence, I was passably good student. Then I militated in the movement of the progressive students and I had not enough time to study. in the struggle against French colonialists.
cut off my scholarship. I had then to come back home.

I joined the underground movement of struggle in Phnom Penh. After that, I joined the maquis to participate in the struggle against French colonialsts.

After the Geneva Agreements in 1954, I came back to Phnom Penh and carried on my underground activities. In the current life, I was professor of history, geography and civics in a private school. I have contacted with various circles. I militated in the pupils, students and intellectuals' circles, in the workers' circles and also in the peasants' circles.

In 1963, I could not stay anymore in Phnom Penh. I had to join the maquis. I was not very well-known to the public. But the Lon Nol's police followed my activities. They knew me but they did not know exactly who I was. In Phnom Penh, I was the general responsible of the movement in the capital. I was also in charge of the liaisons with the countryside.

I joined the maquis in 1963 and I came back to Phnom Penh on April 24, 1975.

In 1960, the Congress of the Party elected me as member of the Central Committee and member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Party.

In 1961, I was Deputy-Secretary of the Standing Committee.

In 1962, our comrade Secretary of the Party was secretly assassinated by the enemy. I assumed then the function of acting Secretary.

In 1963, the Second Congress of the Party elected me as Secretary. And the following Congresses confirmed me successively in my charges.

In the countryside, I stayed mainly in the most remote areas. I travelled all over the country. I know fairly well my people, the goegraphical and economic situation of my country. My backing base was in the region of the national minorities, that is in the North-East region. I know perfectly these national minorities. They were very miserable. They wore only a very small pagne. They had no salt to eat. Now, one cannot distinguish them from the other people. They were the same dress and live like everyone. They have enough rice, salt, medicines and other products. Their conditions of living have been considerably improved.

I would like to tell you about a particular fact. In 1950, when I was a student abroad, I was in a brigade of workers in Zagreb for more than one month during my vacation. I had contacts with Yugoslav peoples and I attended the Yugoslav folkloric performances. So, from that time I had ties of friendship with the Yugoslav peoples ■

Confession of Tran Van Thuong

Major Deputy Chief of Staff of the Division No 9.

My name is Tran Van Thuong. I am 34 years old. I was born in Ninh Binh, North Vietnam. In 1963 I joined the Worker's Party of Vietnam, while I a member of the Association of Students of Saigon. My sponsors were Huyjh Tan Man and Nguyen Tan Doi.

Rank: Major

Function: Deputy Chief of Staff of the division No 9 under the comand of Colonel Chin Phuoc.

I have been captured on January 18, 1978, in Kampuchea's territorial waters.

My wife's name is Cao Thi Nu. I have five children, three daughters and two sons.

My grand father, Tran Van Nhat, joined the Revolution and the Communist Party of Indochina at the same epoch than my father did.

My fathers's name is Tran Van Bin. In 1940, he joined the Communist Party of Indochina in North Vietnam.

My mother's name is Vu Thi Nguyen. In 1942, she joined also the Communist Party of Indochina in North Vietnam.

I have six sisters. My eldest sister, Tran Thi Hue, joined the Worker's Party of Vietnam in 1962. My second sister, Tran Thi Kinh, joined the Worker's Party of Vietnam in 1962. My second sister, Tran Thi Kihn, joined the Party in 1968.

In 1945, my parents were sent by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Indochina to lead the movement against thregime of Bao Dai and that of Ngo Dinh Diem in Saigon. In South Vietnam, they carried out underground activities as workers at the rubber plantation in Long Khanh. It was this place from which they propagated the line of the Communist Party of Indochina and that they used it as seed-bed to form cadres of the Party.

During that time, my parents taught me about the Communist Party of Indochina having Ho Chi Minh as Chairman. They praised him a lot on his exploits and inculcated upon me to be loyal to the line of the Communist Party of Indochina, to unconditionally love it and to devote myself to it. I have firmly grasped the rules of the conducts taught by my parents and always striven to carry out the line of the Party up to now.

In 1963, I militated in the Association of Students of Saigon. In the same year, I joined the Worker's Party of Vietnam, Afterwards, I had to leave for Vinh Long province and joined the regional forces of this province under the direct command of Chin Phuoc.

In 1964, I was promoted to be second lieutanant in the regiment No 18 of the division No 9.

In August 1969, I was entrusted with a task to go and fight in South Laos. At that time, I was promoted to be Lieutenant.

In Septemeber 1970, I went back to Vietnam.

From October 1970 to January 1971, my unit quartered in the territoryof Kampuchea, in Svay Rieng province.

From Feburary to June 1971, my unit quartered in Takeo province (Kampuchea). Then, I left to the forest of U Minh, in Khleaing province (Soctrang) where I stayed until February 1972.

In July 1972, I attended training course at the Political and Military School of the Central Committee of the Party in Hanoi. At that time, my instructor, Colonel Thoi, taught me about:

1. the solidarity spirit of the Community Party of Indochina.
2. The draft of the "Paris Agreement" that would be signed soon;
3. the organisation of the Community Party of Indochina;
4. The leadership of the Commuist Party of Indochina in the Indochina war;
5. the activities of Ho Chin Minh during the founding of the Communist Party of Indochina.

In this first document, the instructor Colonel Thoi explained that the three countries: Laos, Kampuchea, Vietnam, are brothers within a sole "Federation of Indochina". Therefore, we must defend and safeguard this "Federation" and make it strong. Vietnam is a powerful and is the communist country right after the Soviet Union. Therefore, Vietnam is a great power in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indochina. Vietnamis the strong backbone and foundation of the "Indochina Federation". He added that our country is the chief of the Commuinst Party of Indochina. After the war in Indochina, we would be the eldest brother of Indochina. For this reason, we must defend and preserve or preorgatives of being chief of the Communist Party of Indochina. In our capacity as eldest brother, we have to defend and assume the responsibility of the destiny of the Indochinese revolution. At the same time, we must look after the young brothers. We would not allow them to do anything at their will. They have to obey us. In Indochina, Vietnam has the strongest and biggest army, people and material strength. Therefore, Vietnam has to help all the Indochina's countries in technology and materials. The whole Indochina has already won over the US imperialists. Vietnam has shown to the world that it has led the "Indochina Federation" towards unity and that it has a correct policy. Thus, this is an example for the peoples the world over.

Colonel Thoi has also underlined that in the "Indochina Federation", President Ho Chi Minh had achieved great work: he had founded the Communist Party of Indochina and led the Indochinese peoples' movement. In our capacity as leaders of the whole Indochinese countries we are greatly proud about this above-mentioned exploits. After the definitive victory of the Indochina revolution, we, Vietnamese, would have to pay much attention, particularly to Kampuchea, for Kampuchea disagrees with us. At present, although the Chairman of the Communist Party of Indochina had already passed away, but we still have Le Duan and Truong Chinh, who continue to lead the Communist Party of Indochina. Therefore, we have to raise aloft our spirit to achieve this objective. Each cadre has to be aware of his task and assume his responsibility before the Party. He has to preserve the political line of the Party in its capacity as leader of Indochina. We have a duty to form and educate the cadres and build up the armed forces of the three countries. Everywhere in these three countries of the "Federation", we must have Vietnamese cadres in military, political and economic fields. We must form our cadres from the bottom to the top level in order to be able to carry out everywhere our leadership. The studies and training aim mainly at forming federal cadres.

Speaking about the draft "Paris Agreement" to be signed soon, he taught us that although Kampuchea was not present at the meeting, but as responsibiles of this "Indochina Federation" we fully have the right to decide on the Indonchina's problems for Vietnam is the chief of

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the Communist Party of Indochina. In that capacity, our representatives have the right to attend the conference, sign all documents and decide on all problems. In this case, our country has to defend, preserve and carry out this agreement. Thoi underlined that Kampuchea certainly will not approve the "Paris Agreement". But it does not matter whether Kampuchea accepts this "Paris Agreement" or not for Kampuchea is less populated than Vietnam. Besides, being a backbone in carrying out this agreement, Vietnam has a duty to assure its defence and safeguard. It must lead and force its neighbouring countries to implement this Agreement. As duty, we must force Kampuchea to approve this forthcoming "Paris Agreement" for the capitalist countries have already accepted and supported this Agreement. It is thus a great victory won by Vietnam in the international arena. The US imperialists have already accepted to sign this Agreement. OnlyKampuchea refuses to recognise it. Kampuchea will suffer the consequneces in the Indochina front for the world recognises that these negotiations are a great victory in Indochina where Vietnam plays a fundamental role in carrying out this forthcoming "Paris Agreement".

After these training course, I went back to South Vietnam at the end of 1972.

In 1973, our unit permanently quartered in that Kampuchea territory in Takeo province, next to Moat Chrouk province (an Giang, N. of T.). In 1974, our unit moved to Na Cay, district of Binh Dai, province of Kampong Russey (Ben Tre), and stayed there until the complete liberation of Vietnam on April 30, 1975. After liberation, our unit quartered at Thnot, province of Harach (Long Xuyen).

In June 1975, the regiment no 19 of the division no 9 received an order to quarter in the district of Moc Hoa, and the regiment No 18 in Moat Chrouk province on the hill of Phnom Xam. During this period, my unit had twice carried out aggression and invasion against Kampuchea.

First, my unit penetrated 7 kilometres deep inside the Takeo province (Kampuchea). Facing the counter-attack with heavy artillery of the Kampuchea's army, we were forced to pull back. We had 40 killed and 65 wounded and left 8 bodies in the battlefield. The fighting had lasted 4 days.

Secondly, my unit penetrated 9 kilometres deep inside the Takeo province (Kampuchea). This time the Kampuchean army made a more powerful counter attack with heavy artillery against my unit. We were forced to pull back. We had 62 killed, including 10 bodies left in the battlefield, and 82 wounded. This fighting had lasted 6 days.

In August 1975, my regiment had been replaced by the division "Three yellow stars". Our unit received new effectiveness.

In February 1976, my unit was sent to reinforce the division No 7 in Peam (Hatien).

From February to June 1976, my unit led by Colonel Phat attacked and invaded twice the Kampuchea's territory.

First, my unit penetrated 10 Kilometers deep and headed for Takeo city. But I met with a violent counter attack from the infantray and heavy artillery of the Kampuchean army and was forced to pull back. We had 52 killed, 86 wounded and left 9 bodies in the battlefield. This time the fighting had lasted 6 days.

Secondly, my unit attacked and penetrated 12 kilometres deep into the Takeo province (Kampuchea). But we had been violently attacked by the infantry and heavy artillery of the Kampuchean army and was forced to pull back. We had 63 killed, 114 wounded and left 14 bodies in the battlefield. This fighting had lasted 8 days.

In August 1976, my unit penetrated 14 kilometres deep into the Kampuchean territory in Takeo province. We met once again with a powerful counterattack. This time, the whole company No 3 of battalian No 2, regiment No 8, Division no 9 was completely wiped out. In this fighting we had 137 killed, and 178 wounded and we could bring back only 42 dead bodies. After the fighting, we had to reinforce once again our unit with new effectiveness.

In February 1977, my unit went back to Peam (Hatien).

In August 1977, the direction of our attack was still towards Takeo province. If we could capture it, we would set up there a security base. My unit aggressed and invaded the territory of Kampuchea twice again:

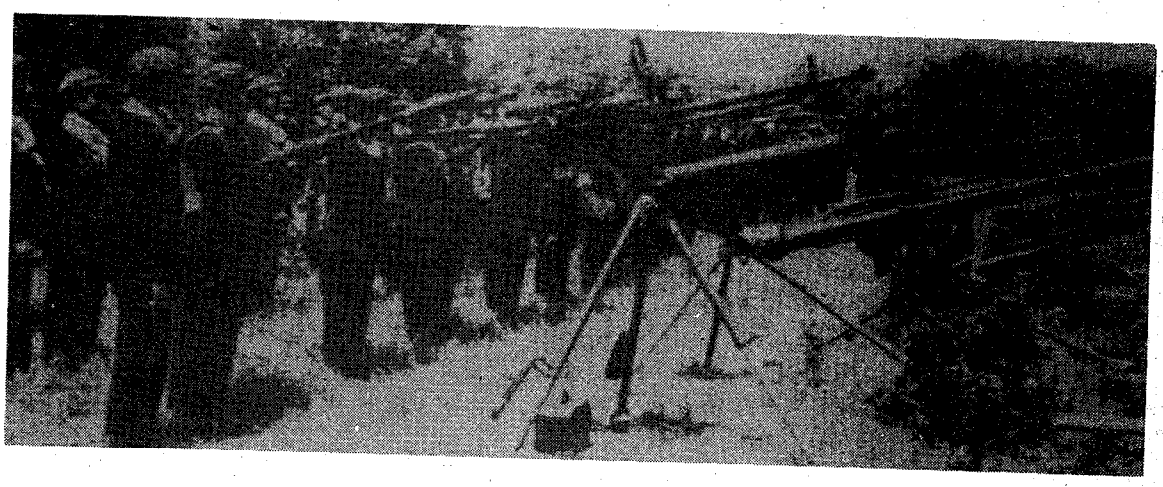
First my unit attacked and penetrated 14 kilometres deep into the Takeo province. The Kampuchean army made a counter-attack with their heavy artillery. My unit had to pull back 10 kilometres. We have 26 killed, 91 wounded and left 4 bodies in the battlefield. This fighting had lasted 6 days.

Secondly, we succeeded in launching another offensive and penetrated again 14 kilometres deep. But we met this time with an unprecedented powerful counter-attack from the Kampuchean army. Therefore our unit was forced to pull back with heavy casulaties. We had 87 killed, 142 wounded and left 21 bodies in the battlefield. The fighing had lasted 12 days. Afterwards, my unit had received more effectives again.

In Decmber 1977, my unit participated in the fighting of Peam (Hatien). It attacked and penetrated 8 kilometres deep into the Kampuchean territory. At that moment, I received an order to go to Koh Tral Island (Phu Quoc, N. of T.). On January 8, 1978, I have been informed through the news from the front that my unit penetrated 20 kilometres deep inside the Kampuchean territory and suffered a counter-attack from the Kampuchean army. It had 42 killed, 85 wounded and left 12 bodies in the battlefield. Our objective was still to attack Takeo province.

On December 16, 1977, my regiemnt no 18 of division no 9 quartered in Koh Tral Island. In January 1978, Colonel Vinh clearly informed me about the plan of the Central Committee of my Party to attack and take possession of Takeo province. He underlined that we will take the whole Takeo province by the middle of March 1978. Our Party entrusted General Can, well experienced in many battlefields, with a task as Commander of this battlefield. According to this plan, when we succeed in taking posession of territories of Takeo province, we have to successively set up the State power there, at the level of village, commune, district and finally at the level of the whole province. In setting up this State power we must appoint our people from Hanoi to hold important posts. The secondary posts should be given to the Kampuchean nationals, who are used to stay and work with us, and have close relations with Vietnam.

Before I have been captured, I saw they brought people from North Vietnam to South Vietnam, in the provinces of Moat Chrouk (An Giang, N. of T.) and Peam (Hatien). More than 100,000 of them had reached Peam already and camped out along the road Peam-Kien Luong at 7 kilometres far from this road. These 100,000 people with the other 900,000 and more people who will come soon have been all ready to penetrate and settle in the province of Takeo in order to grasp the State power there. These people will serve as core for they are all former soldiers, wives of disabled soldiers and soldiers' widows. Colonel Vinh added that after capturing Tadeo province, we would organise this province into a strong military region serving to attack and take possession of the other provinces of Kampuchea. Besides we would have to attack and take possession of Kampuchea's islands. Therefore, Vinh entrusted me with a duty to investiate the situation in the Kampuchea's territorial waters. He added that we would have to be very careful in order to preserve our future which would allow us to profit by the fruits of the conquest of Kampuchea. According to this plan, first we would have to attack and take possession of the Kampu



chea's islands close to Koh Tral Island (Phu Quoc, N. of T.) and then of the other islands. At the same time we would have to launch also our attacks in the mainland.

Later on, the intelligence plantoon No 2 under the command of the Second Lieutenant Bay went to investigate the Kampuchea's territorial waters and daily reported to colonel Vinh, commander of the regiment No 18. Vinh then orderd me to investiagte the situation in the Kampuchean territorial waters. From January 2 to 15, 1978, I made two sorties:

For the first sortie: Huan, Huong and I, we left on a boat VT 1320 towards Kampuchea's territorial waters. We entered 5 kilometres deep into the Kampuchea's territorial waters and anchored our boat there. We then continued our trip in a small boat towards a Kampuchean island, the nearest to Koh Tral Island. After gathering all intelligence in this island, I retruend to my boat and sailed back to Koh Tral Island.

For the second sortie: I did the same as in the first one. But this time, I went to investiagte the Kampuchean seacoast. I walked about 20 kilometers along the sea cost. After well investigating the situation, I went back to the Koh Tral Island and reported to Colonel Vinh.

On January 17, 1978, Colonel Vinh informed me that there were 3 or 4 boats moving daily in the Kampuchean territorial waters at about 15 kilometers west of Koh Tral Island. He orderd my group of 3 men to investigate the situation on the spot.

On January 18, 1978, Juan, Huong and I, we disguised ourselves as fisgermen and left for the Kampuchean territorial waters at the place defined by Vinh. We act as fishermen during the whole morning. We saw no movement of any boat. I then ordered my group to go back to Koh Tral Island. At about 12 o'clock, a Kampuchan gunboat headed towards us and captured us right at the place where we were investigating the situation in the Kampuchean territorial waters■

Refugee Denies Kampuchean Massacre Reports

In early 1976, a Vietnamese refugee walked 350 miles across Kampuchea, from Vietnam to Thailand. He speaks the Kampuchean language fluently, and denied having seen any evidence of massacres, which have been widely reported in the Western press.

Because his children and parents are still in Ho Chi Minh City, correspondent Neil Kelly identified the refugee from Vietnam only as Mr T. T. Kelly's report from Bangkok (Jan 28) stated:

"When I escaped on February 7, 1977, I had no clear idea of what to do, but as I knew the border well I headed for Kampuchea."

For the next two months and one day T worked his way across Kampuchea. Because of his fluency in Khmer and local knowledge he was taken everywhere for a Kampuchean. He walked east and north of Phnom Penh, taking jobs in the ricefields which earned him food for two or three days before he moved on again, always walking in darkness. He entered Thailand on April 8, 1976, along the Phnom Penh-Bangkok railway line, now disused. There were no guards, either Kampuchean or Thai, at the crossing. He estimates he walked about 350 miles.

In Thailand T. heard stories of massacres in Kampuchea. "I could not believe it," he said. "Walking across the country for two months I saw no sign of killing or mass extermination and nobody I spoke to told me of it. I still don't believe it happened."

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Kampuchean Army Works To Better People's Livelihood

A unit of the Revolutionary Army growing rice.

The Kampuchean revolutionary army stationed in various parts of the country takes part in agricultural production to contribute to the improvement of the people's livelihood, while implementing its duty of defending the motherland, broadcast radio Democratic Kampuchea.

The army units stationed in Neak Luong of the east region not far from the frontier shoulder the heavy task of defending the border areas, meanwhile they try their best to take part in farming. Before liberation, the area was once a fierce battlefield with bomb craters, trenches and fortifications scattering here and there. Surmounting every difficulty, the army units stationed here have since liberation levelled the land and turned it into large tracks of farmland. They have also constructed many irrigation projects, greatly changing the natural conditions for farming. The farmlands are now planted in rice, coarse cereals and vegetables of various kinds, reaping double-crops in some places.

The units stationed in Chhuk of the southwest region worked together with the farming cooperative members to build reservoirs, ponds and canals with a view to improving the basic conditions for farming. The armymen made various kinds of tools out of old tyres, destroyed tanks and shell fragments, some of them were given to the local people.

The army garrisoned in Damber district, east region, have worked side by side with the cooperative members in transplanting rice as well as field management since the rainy season last year. Now they are taking part in planting mid-season rice. Besides, they have also gone in for coarse cereals planting and vegetable growing, and breeding fish in reservoirs and ponds so as to improve the livelihood of the army and local people.

Apart from taking part in the productive labour, the army in Koulun district, northwest region, has also helped the local peasants build houses, establish schools, hospitals and handicraft workshops.■

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Contributions

We invite contributions from readers but naturally enough their subsequent publication is at our discretion.

Future plans

We hope in the future to publish articles by various Kampuchean revolutionary people on a wide range of topics from political economy to literature. However this is very much dependent on space available in the newsletter.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

GLORIOUS APRIL 17th

Bright red Blood which covers towns and plains
Of Kampuchea, our Motherland,
Sublime Blood of workers and peasants,
Sublime Blood of revolutionary men and women fighters!

The Blood changing into unrelenting hatred
And resolute struggle,
On April 17th, under the Flag of the Revolution,
Frees from slavery!

Refrain

Long live, long live Glorious April 17th!
Glorious Victory with greater signification
Than the times of Angkor!

We are uniting to edify
Splendid and democratic new Kampuchea and new society
With equality and justice,
Firmly applying the line of independence, sovereignty
And self-reliance.
Let us resolutely defend
Our Motherland, our sacred Soil
And our Glorious Revolution!

Refrain

Long live, long live, long live,
Democratic and prosperous new Kampuchea!
Let us resolutely raise high
The red Flag of the Revolution!
Let us edify our Motherland!
Let us make her advance with great leaps,
So that She will be more glorious and more marvellous than ever!

(non versified translation)

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